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EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS

APRIL, 1948.

Employment reaches new Record high

With the return to work of persons affected by the Queensland rail strike the number of wage and salary earners in employment in Australia was again a record. April, 1948 figure was 23,600 higher than the previous maximum recorded in March. Of the total of 2,358,500, 1,717,300 were males and 641,200 were females. Male employment rose during the month by 22,000 and female employment by 1,600. (Employees in rural industry and females in private domestic service are excluded from these figures).

Increases in all States

All States shared in the general rise in employment levels. The greatest rise was in Queensland where, the conclusion of the February and March industrial disputes and a seasonal rise in meatworks caused employment to rise by 13,100 males and 900 females. Both male and female employment levels rose in all States except in New South Wales, where there was a decline of 500 in the number of females.

Rise in Government Employment

Government employment rose by 10,100 during April. Queensland figures rose by 7,600, largely on account of the resumption of work by State railway employees. New South Wales, Victoria and Western Australia also recorded increases. Of the total increase 1,700 were employed by the Commonwealth Government, 8,100 by State Government and Semi-Governmental Bodies and 300 by Local Government Authorities.

Record Factory Employment

Employment in factories rose to 820,000 surpassing the previous record of 812,000 which was reached in November, 1947. The major increase occurred in Metals, Machinery, Vehicles, etc. where the number employed rose from 306,100 to 313,300, again largely on account of the resumption of work in Queensland railway workshops. Apart from Bricks, Pottery, and Glass works, Jewellery and Watchmaking, and Light and Power Works, all classes of factories shared in the general rise.

Changes in Other Industrial Groups

The only major industrial group which did not show an increase in the number of persons employed was Forestry, Fishing, and Trapping where the figure was unaltered. Employees in Transport and Communication increased by 7,800 (Railways, Shipping). There were minor decreases in males in the Professional and Personal Service Groups, while the number of females employed fell in Transport and Communication (100), Property and Finance (100) and Commerce (200).

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